

AARP Kansas

Long Term Care Policy Forum



Securing Kansas’ Future: Next Steps for Community-Based Long-Term Care for Older Adults

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IN BRIEF: POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Despite the progress made in the last ten years in creating a more balanced system, Kansas continues to institutionalize older adults at rates higher than the national average in all age categories.
 - Statewide surveys of Kansas’ older adult population overwhelmingly indicate their preference to receive long-term care services in the community.
 - For every low-income older adult who chooses to enter a nursing facility because home and community-based services are not available or affordable, the state could have cared for several individuals in their own homes. Property and sales tax revenue is also lost with each nursing home admission.
 - The average cost when Medicaid pays for nursing facility care is much higher than the average Medicaid cost for home and community-based services. The average recipient of both of these services is a very low-income woman who is over 80 years old.
 - System planning and development is critical in order to have a viable system when the Baby Boom generation becomes the Elder Boom generation.
 - Advocates must work with Kansas policymakers to make sure that current budget shortfalls do not erode progress made in building community capacity as nursing facilities become the primary care option for low income older adults.
 - The first step toward shifting capacity and rebalancing our system from an institutional focus to a community focus is assessing the existing system and determining baseline gaps and capacity.
- In order to build a balanced system, Kansas must:
- Support peoples’ ability to meet their own long-term care (LTC) needs by restructuring consumer information and caregiver services.
 - Increase consumer choice and access to services by expanding community-based service options.
 - Improve coordination and integration of services by developing comprehensive case management services.
 - Create a cost-effective and efficient LTC system for the future with consolidated LTC budgets, data collection systems, and planning.

